

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 30-31, 2013

Prepared on February 15, 2013

ITEM NO. 6

SUBJECT: Reissue Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2013-0002, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0005720 for the Uni-Kool Partners Abbott Street Facility, Salinas, Monterey County

STAFF: Katie DiSimone, Katie.Disimone@waterboards.ca.gov

KEY INFORMATION

Location: 320 John Street, Salinas, CA 93901
Type of Discharge: Vegetable processing wastewater
Permitted Flow: 0.10 million gallons per day (MGD; dry weather flow design capacity)
Maximum Reported Flow: 0.8 MGD in 2011
Type of Treatment: Strainers, fine-mesh screens, settling, aeration
Disposal Method: Discharge to Salinas Reclamation Canal
Solid Wastes: Offsite disposal to landfill
Existing Orders: Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2007-0013
Reclamation: None

**This Action: Adopt Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2013-0002
Reissue NPDES Permit No. CA0005720**

DISCUSSION

The Discharger owns and operates a vegetable packing, processing and cold storage facility in the City of Salinas. The Facility receives, washes, chills, packs, stores, and ships vegetables from farm to market.

The Facility generates process wastewater (cold storage melted ice, spent fresh vegetable wash water, equipment wash water, evaporative cooler blowdown) as well as on-site stormwater. Coarse particulates, such as pebbles, vegetable roots, or other larger-sized vegetable wastes, are removed by way of strainers. Anti-foaming agents are then added to the waste stream to prevent foam build-up in subsequent treatment processes. Fine particulates, such as dirt and smaller-sized vegetable wastes, are removed through the use of Sweco-brand 80-mesh screens. Screened wastes are then routed through the Facility's settling and aeration ponds prior to discharge to the Salinas Reclamation Canal. (Altogether, the Facility's settling and aeration ponds hold up to 350,000 gallons of treated wastewater and stormwater.)

Compliance History:

The Fact Sheet includes a Compliance Summary section, found on page F-5. There were 19 permit violations that occurred during the term of the previous permit (R3-2005-0046), as determined through a review of the CIWQS violation report for the Facility. The majority of violations were from effluent limitation violations (boron, dissolved oxygen, nitrate, pH, and

settleable solids). The Central Coast Water Board issued a notice of violation on May 16, 2008, for effluent limit violations and reporting violations occurring between April 2007 and November 2007. On May 12, 2008, the State Water Board issued mandatory minimum penalties/expedited payment (Order No. SWB-2008-003-0020) to the Discharger for \$15,000. On July 1, 2008, the State Water Board issued an Administrative Civil Liability Order No. SWB-2008-003-0021 for \$6,000. The Discharger submitted a response to address the permit violations, which is currently being reviewed by State Water Board and Central Coast Water Board staff.

Staff conducted Facility inspections on February 10, 2006, April 23, 2009, and April 13, 2012. No permit violations were identified during these inspections.

CHANGES FROM THE EXISTING ORDER

The proposed order is consistent with the previous order. Substantive changes include:

- Increased acute toxicity monitoring frequency from once per permit term to annually for receiving water Discharge Point 001.
- Routine effluent monitoring for selenium and bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate have been established to determine if reasonable potential exists for those parameters.
- Annual effluent monitoring for total ammonia, un-ionized ammonia, chlorpyrifos, copper, diazinon, *E. coli*, fecal coliform, priority organics, pesticides, and turbidity have been established to determine whether the effluent contributes to existing impairments of the receiving water, Salinas Reclamation Canal.
- Effluent monitoring for acute toxicity has been accelerated from once per permit term to annual monitoring. The receiving water is listed as impaired due to toxicity and the increase in monitoring frequency is necessary to ensure the discharge from the Facility is not contributing to the impairment.
- Hardness monitoring in the receiving water for future RPA determinations.

Minor changes included:

- Paper submittals of the self-monitoring data are no longer required, as the same data is required to be uploaded to the CIWQS database.
- Updated the Central Coast Standard Provisions in Attachment D-1 to be consistent with the January 2013 revision.

COMMENTS

Public notice was provided and posted at the Monterey County Courthouse in Salinas for the consideration of this proposed permit. No written comments were received on the proposed permit within the comment period (ended March 29, 2013).

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Order No. R3-2013-0002, as proposed.

ATTACHMENT

For copies, please refer to the Central Coast Water Board's internet website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2013/2013_agendas.shtml

1. Proposed Order No. R3-2013-0002, including the following attachments:
 - Attachment A – Definitions
 - Attachment B – Map
 - Attachment C – Flow Schematic
 - Attachment D – Standard Provisions
 - Attachment E – Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP)
 - Attachment F – Fact Sheet

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